

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING SPECIMENS TO CDC FOR LABORATORY TESTING FOR SARS-CoV-2

This document provides supplemental guidance regarding specimen collection, storage, and shipping to CDC laboratories in addition to the guidance available on CDC's website regarding [infection prevention and control in healthcare settings](#); [biosafety for specimen handling](#); and [specimen collection, storage, and shipping](#).

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND LABELING

All specimens must be labeled with:

- Patient (or contact) date of birth
- CDC or state-generate nCoV ID (formerly PUI ID)
- Specimen type
- Date collected

50.34/DASH DOCUMENTATION AND SUBMISSION

Each specimen must be accompanied by a completed CDC Form 50.34 (AKA DASH form).

<https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/pdf/form-50-34.pdf>

Do NOT fill in form by hand. Drop downs MUST be used if they exist.

Select the Specimen Origin to Begin the Form
 CDC SPECIMEN SUBMISSION FORM: SPECIMENS OF HUMAN ORIGIN

<p>LABORATORY EXAMINATION REQUESTED</p> <p>Test order name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Test order code: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Suspected Agent: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Date sent to CDC: <input type="text"/></p> <p>At CDC, bring to the attention of: <input type="text"/></p> <hr/> <p>PATIENT INFORMATION</p> <p>Patient Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Birth date: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Sex: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Age: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Clinical Diagnosis: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Date of onset: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Fatal: <input type="text"/></p>	<p>STATE PHL / NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE / FEDERAL AGENCY / INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION / PEACE CORPS</p> <p>Name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Institution name: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Street address: <input type="text"/></p> <p>City: <input type="text"/></p> <p>State: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Country: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Fax: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Point of Contact: <input type="text"/></p>
	<p>Patient ID: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Specimen ID: <input type="text"/></p>

State Public Health Lab Patient ID
nCoV ID
State Public Health Lab Specimen ID
nCoV ID – Specimen type identifier

Patient information on the specimen tube and 50.34/DASH form must match exactly to prevent delays.

Confirm prioritized items below were electronically entered in the 50.34/DASH in proper location displayed above:

- State Public Health Lab Patient ID
- State Public Health Lab Specimen ID
- CDC or state-generated nCoV ID (i.e. 0001021 or NC101847794)

Complete the remaining required fields in the 50.34/DASH:

- Patient first name and last name
- Patient date of birth
- State Public Health Laboratory contact information including full name, title, complete mailing address, email address, telephone, and fax number of the submitter
- Specimen collected date
- Specimen source (type)
- State of Illness

In the upper left-hand corner of the form, to ensure proper routing:

- For “**Test order name**”, select “Respiratory virus molecular detection (non-influenza)” (CDC-10401)
- For “**Suspected Agent**”, select “Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)”

You must include the 50.34/DASH form in the package and send a **secure** email with the 50.34/DASH form to: vtw6@cdc.gov, zbg7@cdc.gov, DSRstat@cdc.gov, eocevent185@cdc.gov, eocevent331@cdc.gov, eocevent177@cdc.gov

Include tracking number and nCoV IDs in the body of the email.

SPECIMEN SHIPPING

Specimens can be received at CDC seven days a week, but the specific instructions below should be followed for weekend deliveries in order to ensure receipt.

Monday – Thursday Shipments:

Ship overnight using your usual courier such as FedEx or UPS to the following address:

ATTN: STATT Lab: COVID 2019
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia, 30333
Telephone: 404-639-3931
Email: dsrstat@cdc.gov

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or holiday shipments:

- Email the following information to CDC IMS Logistics Transportation (eocevent306@cdc.gov) and CDC IMS Logistics Section Chief (CDC) (eoclogchief@cdc.gov)
 - Name and contact information for the person who will be handing the package to the courier
 - Address of where the package will be picked up
 - Estimated time the package will be ready
 - Number, rough dimensions, and rough weight of the package(s)
 - Whether package contains cold pack, dry ice, or other
 - CDC nCoV ID or state generated nCoV ID
- Email the above information to CDC IMS Logistics Transportation (eocevent306@cdc.gov) and CDC IMS Logistics Section Chief (CDC) (eoclogchief@cdc.gov)
- Call the CDC Emergency Operations Center (770-488-7100) to arrange weekend-specific overnight specimen logistics. Please indicate that the call is about coronavirus specimen shipping and please have the CDC nCoV ID or state generated nCoV ID number.

PREPARING SPECIMENS FOR SHIPMENT

For specimens stored at 2-8°C, all laboratory testing must occur within 72 hours of collection. If a delay in shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below. Refrigerated specimens received outside of this 72 hour window will be rejected.

Specimens should be packed according to [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\) regulations](#). SARS-CoV-2 specimens should be packed in compliance with regulations for [UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B](#). A [packaging checklist](#) is available for reference. For specific instructions, refer to CDC’s [Packing, Shipping, and Transport guidance](#) (last section).

Version 1.2, March 9, 2020